

THE CHARLTON COURIER,

G. F. VANDIVER, Ed. and Prop.

KEYTESVILLE, - MISSOURI.

"HELP the editor and the Nebraska sufferer," is the way an exchange puts it.

In the Arkansas legislature at Little Rock Tuesday, James H. Berry was re-elected United States senator on the first ballot.

On account of a railroad rate war in Chicago, soft coal is now selling in that city for only \$2 a ton, the cheapest ever known.

The Kansas legislature has made gambling a felony. We wonder if they will enforce this law on the participants in church fairs?

It seems to be the aim of the Republican legislature to create as many offices as possible, the latest scheme being to make Pettie circuit alone a judicial circuit. The people of that county, however, are much opposed to the move.

The survivors of Mosby's guerrilla band held a reunion at Alexandria, Va., last week. As Mosby has been a leading Republican for years, all his sins in the eyes of that party are forgiven, so they make no howl at this reunion.

It is rumored that the Populist vote in the Idaho legislature is about to be thrown to Sweet, to which the *Post Dispatch* remarks: "Let us hope this does not mean another sugar senator."

A new law is pending in the legislature to raise the age of consent to 18 years. At present it is only 14 years, the lowest of any state in the union, and a disgrace to our commonwealth. Let no delay be made in enacting this provision.

The revenue department of the government is instructing those having an income of taxable proportions to make and render a return on or before March 4th, on penalty of having the matter attended to by the officials with the trimmings added. It will be cheaper for each taxable to be honest with the government, for costs run high in such cases.

Bob Fitzsimmons appeared before Judge Vant at Syracuse, N. Y., Monday and pleaded not guilty to a charge of manslaughter, for the killing of Con Riordan, and was held in \$10,000 bail, which was given by two local sports. The case will probably not be tried until the March term of court. In the meantime his attorneys will fight for a dismissal of the indictment, in which, it is to be hoped, they will not succeed.

The "there-is-nothing-to-arbitrate" plan of the corporations to starve their employees to terms, seems a pleasant pastime. But such things cannot last always, and it is our opinion that the labor troubles of this country are by no means settled, notwithstanding the defeat of the A. R. U. last July, and the practical defeat of the poor street car men in Brooklyn. It is true that strikes cause the suffering of the public in general, but it is also true that the defeat of a bread winner, such as they sustained last year, is a hundred fold more detrimental to the people than would be the defeat of the heartless corporations.

When the report of the sinking of the steamer "State of Missouri" was first published, it was stated that there were forty lives lost. Following this, the captain reported that upon completing the list of those saved it contained the names of every one on board. Now we are informed that three of the bodies of the men drowned in the disaster have been recovered. It seems to be a general practice of all corporations to cover up the most distressing features of such disasters, and to doubt these bodies would never have been discovered had the owners of the "State of Missouri" taken the precaution of attaching stones to the necks of those that were to be drowned, thus averting the stigma set upon the company over the loss of life by the carelessness of their pilot.

The name of President Diaz of Mexico is pronounced Death. It is suggested that the Mexican battle cry be "Diaz to Guatemala!"

Judge Thos. R. Betts of Fayette died Tuesday, aged 63 years. He was a highly respected citizen of Howard county being known as "the poor man's friend," and will be greatly missed.

In the special election in Carroll county Monday to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Representative Richards, Jas. L. Minnis, Republican, was elected by 150, which is a greatly reduced majority. Mr. Richards having received 373 over his opponent, Judge M. V. Wright of Norborne was Minnis' opponent.

The locomotive engineers of the Southern Pacific are about to go on a strike, and Chief Arthur has ordered that all the brotherhoods be polled in order to get a vote on the question to order a general strike. Eugene V. Debs is quoted as saying that the A. R. U. will in no way antagonize the engineers in case they strike.

At a special election in Moberly Monday it was decided by an almost unanimous vote to issue bonds for \$15,000 for the purpose of erecting a new high school building on the site of the one recently destroyed by fire. This, together with their insurance money, will enable them to erect a \$25,000 building.

At a recent religious revival at Wichita, Kansas, there were 2,000 conversions. At one time Wichita was undoubtedly the toughest place in the United States and the proverbial "man every morning for breakfast," was as true there as ever in the balmy days of the "Forty niners" of California. Who says the world is not growing better?

It is said that Ferdinand Ward, who wrecked the fortune of Gen. Grant and was sent to the penitentiary for seven years, has served out his term and is now working in a Livingston county office for only six dollars a week. It is generally supposed that he had a large part of his stealings laid away and that the accepting of this position is only a blind.

The will of the late James G. Fair of San Francisco has been stolen from the clerk's office. Being a public document it was extracted from its envelope and a lot of worthless papers substituted. The children of Fair have commenced contest proceedings against the testament of their father, which disposed of over \$60,000,000, only one-fifth of which goes to the contestants. Copies of the missing will are therefore in the hands of the attorneys, but on account of the great length and peculiar verbiage of the document it is almost impossible to prove the exact language, even though there should be no contest. The signature of the testator is also gone, and that cannot be testified to by the attesting witnesses.

A bill has been introduced in the Missouri legislature to license all dealers in cigarettes and cigarette paper, charging them \$2,000 per annum, one-half of which goes to the state, the remainder to the county. Such a law is all right so far as it goes, but in towns of 5,000 population one person could well afford to pay this license for the exclusive sale of cigarettes. It would be well to add a provision prohibiting the sale or giving away of cigarettes to persons under eighteen years old, making the penalty for violating this provision punishable by fine, imprisonment and revocation of license and forfeiture of unearned fee, and that the informant be given part of the fee. If such a law is to be enacted it may as well be made effective against this great evil.

The Macon Times pertinently remarks, "that on account of a small riot in Hawaii, about the size of the Carnegie trouble at Homestead, between the natives and a Yankee colony, who by the aid of Minister Stevens and American marines upset Queen Lili's government, great efforts are being made by the New England statesmen in congress to make it appear that Cleveland's administration is responsible." The Brooklyn street car strike, the famine in Nebraska, the floods in California, the burning of the Texas cotton palace, the sinking of the Ohio river steamboat, the freezing of the orange crop in the south and the latest train robberies are doubtless attributable to the same cause.

William Waldorf Astor has closed a contract with a New York florist to place 400 lilies of the valley and a like number of violets on the grave of the late Mrs. Astor, every day for a year, for which the millionaire pays \$38,000 over \$100 a day.

An exchange says that a Barton county farmer has just received six car loads of horses from Dakota, for which he paid \$3 per head, and is butchering them and feeding large chunks of horse flesh to his drove of hogs. As to the truthfulness of this we cannot vouch, being a doubtful Thomas ourself.

J. D. and A. M. Spreckles, sons of Claus Spreckles, have subscribed \$700,000 to the San Francisco & San Joaquin railroad, a newly projected road in California. If that road could only be made to communicate with the East, no doubt the people of California would rise as one man, and call the Spreckles kids blessed, for at present the Southern Pacific owns and controls every railroad track in that state, not excepting the street railroads of San Francisco and Sacramento.

Major John Gilbert, who died at Palmyra, N. Y., last Saturday, aged 93 years, was the man who set up and corrected the proofs of the first Book of Mormon, (the Mormon bible,) the first copy of which he retained until recently, when he sold it to Hon. Pliny T. Saxon of Palmyra. During Gilberts life he has often been visited by prominent Mormons from Salt Lake City, and who in company with him would visit Mormon Hill, where Joseph Smith alleged he dug up the golden plates from which the Book of Mormon was printed.

J. E. Fenton, mayor of Springfield, Mo., has issued a call for a meeting of the mayors of cities in Missouri with a population of 1,000 and more and under 30,000, to be held at Jefferson City, February 12th, for the purpose of urging upon the legislature a constitutional amendment that will enable an increase of the rate of taxation in municipalities of that class. The present maximum rate is 60c on the \$100, which does not provide a revenue adequate to the wants of a city for modern conveniences in the way of electric lights, water works, public sewers, etc., as the present restriction is a practical bar to the erection and maintenance of such accessories.

Among all the bills that are pending in the Missouri legislature, none seem more just than that of Senator Wurde-man's relative to the compensation of the circuit judges in the state. The salary of a circuit judge is \$2,000 per annum, with no allowance whatever for traveling expenses, and they are prohibited by law from accepting any kind of railway transportation at less than its usual cost. In the large circuits in the southern part of the state, the traveling expenses constitute a very important item. Senator Wurde-man's bill on the subject allows the judges \$20 a week for traveling expenses, when they are engaged in holding court, and the money is to be paid by the counties. It is to be hoped there will be no delay in making this or some similar bill a law.

It snowed for five hours at Natchitoches, La., last Monday, the snow then turned to sleet.

The Mexico *Ledger* has donned a new dress in which it looks as attractive as a sweet girl graduate.

The senate, by a vote of 24 to 22, indorsed the Hawaiian policy of the administration last Saturday.

A miner named John Baldes, fell 275 feet into a coal mine at Springfield, Ill., last Saturday. Almost every bone in his body was broken.

The *Bevier Citizen* says that town has no mossbacks, but they have a good many citizens who have moom on their stomachs, caused from drinking frog-pond water.

Harvey Booth, one of the wealthiest cattlemen of Wyoming, was found murdered in the stable on his ranch near Evanston, Wyo., Saturday night. Robbery was the motive.

The Mexico *Ledger* is preparing to issue a mammoth souvenir edition some time during the present year. We pronounce it a daisy in advance of its appearance as Bob White never does anything by halves.

The latest dodge in the criminal code is "hypnotism." The person who is so weak-minded as to be "hypnotized" ought to be confined in an asylum, while the individual who exerts a sufficient influence over another to force him to commit crime would look better dangling from the end of a rope than anywhere else. Society demands and good morals require that "criminal hypnotizers" be dispatched to a warmer climate as speedily as possible.

The landslide has not done much toward purifying the U. S. senate, says the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*. New Jersey has elected Sewell, the lobby agent of the Pennsylvania railroad; Nebraska sends Thurston, the Pacific railroad attorney; West Virginia elects Elkins, who, many people believe, should have been locked up long ago; Montana will be represented by Tom Carter, who brought sorrow to several contributors to the Harrison campaign fund. However all's well that ends well, and the elevation of such creatures may hasten the day when the people will choose the senate.

If Senator Yeater's bill to establish a school of journalism as a department in the University of Missouri becomes a law, that department will be maintained upon the same basis as other departments. The board of curators are empowered to grant graduates a degree, known as bachelor of journalism. The head of the department will be known as dean, and the instructors as professors. After many years careful observation, we are of the opinion that such a school would not be unlike a school for telegraphy in which, after the student "graduates," he is then ready to enter a railway or commercial office where he can learn the business well enough to fit him for a position. The true way to learn the art of journalism is to begin as an "imp," and gradually work up until you can enter the sanctum sanctorum with all the journalistic brilliancy of which you are susceptible.

A double tragedy occurred four and a half miles southeast of Mexico, Mo., last Sunday. Daniel M. Hardwick killed George Ward, his brother-in-law, and then shot himself. Family trouble was the cause of the tragic affair. Hardwick was 40 years old. Young Ward was 25. The body of the former was removed to Mexico the following day. It is the opinion of a good many that Hardwick was insane. In his pocket was found a letter written by him to the world. The letter was addressed to Editor R. M. White of the Mexico *Ledger* and was evidently written for publication, showing that the killing of some one or himself or wife was a premeditated idea of his many months before it was done. Hardwick worked in Louisiana and Bowling, Mo., several months back. All parties concerned are prominent residents of Audrain county.

The old Lincoln homestead, near Hodgenville, Larnie county, Ky., where Abraham Lincoln was born, is to be purchased by an association of the citizens of Hodgenville and made into a public park. The homestead is now known as the Creal farm, and lies about two and a half miles south of Hodgenville. An electric railway is to be built out to the farm, announces the New York *Sun*, and in another way it is intended as another Mount Vernon.

A fast train on the Vandalia line was wrecked near Coatesville, Ind., last Monday afternoon, the accident being occasioned by the spreading of the rails. The cars of the train after leaving the track rolled down an embankment, killing two persons, John W. Norton, manager of the Grand opera house at St. Louis, and Mrs. W. S. Towers of Carthage, Mo., outright, and injuring between 35 and 40 others, some of them seriously and perhaps fatally.

In Mexico they are going to tax "traveling merchants" and "bankrupt" concerns which run into the town to get the cream of the trade for a short time and then skip out, \$25 per day for the privilege of doing business. This is simple justice to the merchants who pay taxes, share the public burdens and stay with the community in dull seasons as well as in prosperous times.

The Fall Mall *Gazette* in commenting on President Cleveland's message, says: "The tendency here as well as in America is to regard the message as weak and unsatisfactory. Yet his suggested remedy is at least adequate to meet the emergencies of the moment. Unfortunately there is small prospect of his proposals being carried out by congress which is moribund. Moreover, President Cleveland is never sure of a majority of Democrats when monetary issues are concerned."

The present state of our advertising columns would indicate that Keytesville merchants are about dead, but we assure our readers that they (our merchants) are still kicking, and so are we over having to set about 34 columns of reading matter every week. It is no wonder our merchants are complaining of dull times. Advertise!

CENTRALIA suffered another big fire Tuesday morning, \$15,000 worth of property being destroyed in the business center of the town, which is considered a serious setback to the place.

A BILL is before the legislature providing that the presidents of all the school boards in the different counties shall get together and elect a county school superintendent, who shall devote his time to looking after the public schools of the county.

The President's Special Message.

President Cleveland has sent a message to congress asking our lawmakers to pass a law authorizing the secretary of the treasury to issue bonds of the government for the purpose of procuring and maintaining a sufficient gold reserve, and the redemption and cancellation of the United States legal tender notes, and the treasury notes issued for the purchase of silver under the law of July 14th, 1890. He suggests that the bonds be issued in denominations of \$20 and \$50 and their multiples, bearing 3 per cent. interest and payable in fifty years. He further recommends that these bonds could be deposited by national banks as security for circulation, notes to be issued up to the face value of the bonds; that the banks should not be allowed to take out notes of denominations less than \$10, and when such as are now outstanding reach the treasury, except for redemption and retirement, they should be cancelled and notes of \$10 and upwards issued in their stead. Silver certificates of the denominations of \$10 and upwards should be replaced by denominations under \$10. Chairman Springer of the committee on banking and currency says that a bill will be reported to the house in a few days, but the free silverites are not at all satisfied with the message, thinking the president should have at least met them half way, so there is as little probability of financial legislation by the present congress as ever.

ANOTHER terrible steamship disaster is reported in the British channel very early Wednesday morning, in which 359 lives were lost. The steamship "Elbe" bound from Bremen to New York was struck amidehip by the British steamship "Crathie" and immediately sunk carrying to a watery grave all on board but 21 seamen, the passengers all being asleep.

The jury in the Duestrow insanity inquiry was discharged at 2:35 Saturday afternoon, having failed to arrive at a verdict. Upon the last ballot taken the vote stood eight for insanity and four against. It seems that everything is working favorably to save this millionaire murderer's neck as long as possible. April 30th is the date set for a new trial.

In continuing the Taylor case until the March term, Judge Rucker informed the attorneys of the case that another continuance would not be granted unless good and sufficient legal reasons were given. It is possible that the great alleged anxiety of the Taylors for trial last Tuesday, was prompted by knowing that the state would not be ready.

OUR Republican friends are not making as much noise now about the price of sugar as they were during the campaign. One of our Republican readers "strained his back" a few days ago while carrying home only a dollar's worth of sugar, the package he received was so large.

AN Illinois court has decided that a sheriff who opens a letter addressed to a prisoner in his custody, before its delivery to the prisoner, is amenable to the law, which imposes punishment upon persons who open letters addressed to others.

THE Merchants' exchange of St. Louis has unanimously adopted resolutions indorsing and commending President Cleveland's message on the financial question. Now who will endorse the Merchants' exchange?

STEPHEN B. ELKINS has been elected by the West Virginia legislature to succeed J. N. Camden as United States senator. Poor old West Virginia! What has she done to be thus sorely afflicted politically?

Now that the excitement has died out over the Japan-Chinese war, we are likely to be treated with a little scrap right here at home, as Mexico and Guatemala are making horrible faces at each other.

WE are indebted to Hon. T. P. Schooner for a copy of Gov. Wm. J. Stone's message, in pamphlet form, to the Thirty-eighth general assembly of Missouri.

The St. Louis bridge bill, for another bridge across the Mississippi into East St. Louis, has been reported favorably to the senate.